



TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR MULTICULTURAL COUNSELING AND DEVELOPMENT

Providing global leadership, research, training, and development for multicultural counseling professionals with a focus on racial and ethnic issues



Spring 2009 Newsletter

President's Message

Dr. Debra Bettis Britton

Happy New Year! The 52nd Texas Counseling Association Annual Professional Growth Conference in Houston was a HUGE SUCCESS! Almost 2,300 counselors from across the state of Texas were refreshed and rejuvenated! A special thank you to Benny Malone who is also a TexAMCD member and Susan Burroughs for coordinating the Houston 2008 Conference! The theme was *Creating Balance in a World of Change*. The keynote speakers were Bill Ferguson and Sarita Maybin. They were AWESOME! Bill Ferguson talked about *Getting Your Power Back* and Sarita Maybin shared wonderful tips for *Getting More Done with Less Stress*!

Kudos to all of the TexAMCD members who volunteered! I am proud to report that ALL of the leadership team of TexAMCD volunteered at the Houston Conference.

While in Houston for the conference, TexAMCD held it's annual business meeting on November 5, 2008. It was decided that in spring 2009 the TexAMCD By-Laws will be reviewed and revised. Volunteers are needed! It was also voted on and passed that the 2009 officers of TexAMCD who are required to be members of ACA will be reimbursed \$200.00 for the national dues.

An important and successful event during the conference occurred on Thursday, November 6, 2008. TexAMCD made history by hosting a triple luncheon with fellow divisions, Texas Counselors for Social Justice (TxCSJ, a new division in TCA) and Texas Association for Humanistic Education and Development (TAHEAD). Dr. Cherry Ross Gooden was the luncheon speaker. This cooperative event was enjoyed by all.

TexAMCD's spring 2009 Conference was fabulous! The theme this year was Diversity – Who's In Your Picture. The morning speakers for the spring conference were Sue Jan Herber and Dr. Debra Bettis Britton, presenting on William Glasser's Choice Theory as it relates to multicultural awareness. The afternoon session was led by Dr. Mary Nichter and Dr. Sheryl Serres, presenting on counseling ethics.

Mission

TexAMCD carries out its mission through achieving goals within the following purposes:

- To seek to develop programs specifically to improve ethnic and racial empathy and understanding.
- To advance and sustain personal growth.
- To improve educational opportunities for persons from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- To provide an alliance with other divisions of TCA to advance multicultural counseling.
- To defend human rights and civil rights as prescribed by law.
- To encourage changing attitudes and enhance understanding of cultural diversity.

A BIG Thank You to our 2009 Officers

President—Dr. Debra Bettis Britton

President-elect—Ilynn Marinero

Past President—Sal Acosta

Secretary—Bessie Neal

Treasurer—Sadie Woodard

Director—B.J. Barksdale

Senator—Dr. Marilyn Adams

Emerging Leader—Tomeka McGee

Important Dates

2009 TCA Advocacy Days

- March 25, 2009
- May 5, 2009

May 12, 2009

- WHO: Spring Creek Counseling Association
WHAT: Games We Can Play- Continuing Education Workshop [credit: 1.0 hour]
WHEN: Tuesday, May 12th, 2009-(light supper at 6:00 p.m., program at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)
WHERE: Champion Forest Baptist Church, 15555 Stuebner Airline Rd, Houston, Texas, 77069

Attendees must register for the meal no later than May 6th, and can do so by contacting Angela Hopkins at Angela.Hopkins@cfisd.net.

June 23, 2009

- WHO: Spring Creek Counseling Association
WHAT: Summer LPC Workshop (lunch included)
Session 1, Children's Perceptions of Pets on the Therapeutic Relationship by Kathy McDonald, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (credit 3 hours)
Session 2, The Ethical Counselor by LeAnn Solmonson, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (credit 3 hours)
WHEN: Tuesday, June 23, 2009
WHERE: Lone Star College, Health Science Building rm.107, 20000 Kingwood Dr. Kingwood TX

TEXAMCD

SPRING 2009 OFFICER NOMINATION BALLOT DUE

It is time to gather nominations for the following offices:

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| President-elect (3-year commitment) | Director (3 year commitment) |
| Secretary (2 year commitment) | Senator (3 year commitment) |

All elected officers of TexAMCD must be members of TCA, TexAMCD, ACA and AMCD. In order to submit a nomination ballot, you must be a member in good standing of TCA and TexAMCD. A ballot that is mailed must be signed and include the member's TCA number.

The nomination ballot should be completed online at www.txca.org or mailed to
Sal Acosta
107 Nolan Harris Street
Waco, TX 76705

Nomination ballots must be completed and returned by March 15, 2009.

Salute to America
The Dream is Alive and Well
by
Sadie Woodard

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech "I have a Dream" was a message that spoke openly the value of multiculturalism in America. Since the death of Dr King, approximately forty years ago, the Dream and the Civil Rights movement seem to have lost some the significance and support that it once enjoyed. However, dormant as it may have appeared the events of the past year have shown that the "Dream" is alive and well.

Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, which was delivered in the shadow of the White House, envisioned African Americans, whites, and all other races of people standing together and singing, "Free at Last. Free at Last. Great God Almighty. Free at Last!" Dr. King's vision was for his children to experience what all people shared in common, finally putting aside differences. During the recent inauguration of the 44th President of the United States of America, children of slaves and children of slave owners stood side by side to witness this historic event. The 44th president, the son of a white American mother and a native African father, only in America!

The inauguration was America's finest hour. The world watched as the words of our founding fathers, "all men are created equal", were fulfilled. History will record the multiculturalism of the inaugural event. The world had the opportunity to see who we are as Americans and what makes the USA a great nation.

The fact that the "Dream" is alive and well presents an ongoing responsibility for all of us to reach out to others, to seek understanding of cultural differences, and to look for what we have in common with all people. As members of the Texas Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development, we must stand for human rights and civil rights, promote understanding and tolerance, develop programs specifically to improve ethnic and social empathy and understanding, and encourage a shift in attitudes that will enhance understanding of cultural diversity.

The truth is that we are living in a time where we have a window of opportunity for change. We can make tremendous advances toward reshaping our country and the world if we are able to continue the spirit of cooperation and the positive attitude of "Yes we can."